

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Original) Device for connecting a first component (5) to a second component (12) in a positively locking but detachable fashion, and for sealing a joint region between the first component (5) and a third component (4) which is connected to the second component (12), characterized in that an elastic element (6) is provided which has
  - a) a groove (61) for receiving a securing rib (52) which is provided on the first component (5),
  - b) a latching element (62) which can be connected in a positively locking fashion to the second component (12) by means of pressure force, and
  - c) a sealing lip (63) which presses against the third component (4) after the latching element (62) latches in.
2. (Original) Device according to Claim 1, characterized in that the elastic element (6) is fabricated from one piece, or in that the sealing lip (63) is connected by means of an adhesive or welded to the rest of the body (66) of the elastic element (6).
3. (Currently Amended) Device according to ~~Claim 1 or 2~~ claim 1 characterized in that the sealing lip (63) is configured so as to be more flexible than the rest of the body (66) of the elastic element (6) which is provided with the groove (61) and the latching element (62), with

the result that the first and second components (5, 12) are held in a stable fashion after the mutual, positively locking connection, and the sealing lip (63) is deformed as a result of pressing against the third component (4).

4. (Original) Device according to Claim 3, characterized in that the elasticity of the sealing lip (63) and of the rest of the body (66) of the elastic element (6) is brought about by the selection of material or by the shaping.

5. (Original) Device according to Claim 4, characterized in that the sealing lip (63) has a hardness of less than 50 Sh\_A, preferably approximately 10 Sh\_A to 30 Sh\_A, and the other components of the elastic element (6) have a hardness of greater than 50 Sh\_A, preferably approximately 70 Sh\_A to 90 Sh\_A.

6. (Original) Device according to Claim 5, characterized in that the body (66) and/or the sealing lip (63) are fabricated from soft rubber, elastomers, natural rubber, and the sealing lip (63) is fabricated in particular from cellular rubber.

7. (Currently Amended) Device according to ~~one of Claims 1 to 6~~, claim 1, characterized in that the latching element (62) can be pressed into the body (66) of the elastic element (6).

8. (Currently Amended) Device according to ~~one of Claims 1 to 7~~, claim 1, characterized in that the body (66) of the elastic element (6) has a compression groove (64) which runs in the axial direction and which is deformed as soon as the pressure force acts on the latching element (62).

9. (Currently Amended) Cover device having a connecting device according to ~~one of Claims 1 to 8~~, claim 1, characterized in that the first component (5) has a cover panel, the second component (12) is a profiled component which is to be covered by the first component (5) and is composed, if appropriate, of two or more pieces (1, 2), and the third component (4) is a panel, in particular a panel of glass which is held at least on one side by means of the second component (1, 2).

10. (Original) Cover device according to Claim 9, characterized in that the cover panel (5), on whose securing rib (52) the elastic element (6) is fitted, has second connecting means (51) to which the cover panel (5) can be connected on one side by means of the profiled component (12).

11. (Original) Cover device according to Claim 10, characterized in that the profiled component (12) which is connected to the glass panel (4) has, on one or both sides, in each case two securing elements (15, 16) which are preferably arranged on its upper edge and lower edge and to which the second connecting means (51) and the latching element (62) which is provided on the elastic element (6) can be connected in a positively locking fashion.

12. (Currently Amended) Dividing element, in particular a sliding door, having a profiled component (12) which has the purpose of securing a panel (4) in particular a glass panel and which is covered by means of a cover device according to ~~one of Claims 9 to 11~~, claim 9, in such a manner that the joint region between a cover panel of the cover device and the panel (4) is covered in a sealed fashion.